United Nations S/2003/893

Security Council

Distr.: General
23 September 2003

Original: English

Letter dated 22 September 2003 from the Permanent Representative of Georgia to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

Upon instructions of my Government, I have the honour to transmit to you the Statement of the National Security Council of Georgia issued on 10 September 2003 (see annex).

I would be grateful if you could arrange for the present letter and its annex to be circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Revaz **Adamia**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

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Annex to the letter dated 22 September 2003 from the Permanent Representative of Georgia to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

Statement of the National Security Council of Georgia regarding the United States request for the inclusion of Shamil Basayev in the list of terrorists

By the decision of President Bush (Executive Order # 132240), issued on 8 August 2003, Shamil Basayev, accused of masterminding and implementing a number of terrorist attacks, has been declared as dangerous for the United States and its citizens. Mr. Basayev has assumed responsibility for various terrorist attacks in the territory of the Russian Federation which have claimed hundreds of lives. Therefore, the United States, Great Britain and the Russian Federation requested the United Nations to include Mr. Basayev in the list of dangerous terrorists.

Georgia joins this request and wishes to add, moreover, that Mr. Basayev has been wanted by the law enforcement agencies of Georgia for a number of years for crimes against humanity perpetrated by him in the territory of Abkhazia, Georgia, in 1992-1993. Mr. Basayev was among those mercenaries who took an active part in armed conflict against the government forces of Georgia and carried out severe acts of violence towards the civilian population. During the conflict in Abkhazia, Georgia, Shamil Basayev held one of the leading positions in the secessionist regime, that of the so-called Defense Minister, and was awarded the "honour" of "Hero of Abkhazia" personally by the leader of the regime, Mr. Ardzinba.

Encouraged by the Abkhaz separatists, in August 1992, in Gudauta, Mr. Basayev founded and managed the activities of the so-called "Armed Forces of the Confederation of Mountainous People", an anti-governmental paramilitary organization made up mainly of foreign mercenaries, citizens of the Russian Federation of Chechen origin. The declared aim of this criminal organization was to assist the Abkhaz separatists to have the Abkhazian Autonomous Republic secede from the territory of Georgia. The organization, under the command of Mr. Basayev, engaged in combat operations against the State forces of Georgia and occupied the city of Gagra, which resulted in the deaths of over 500 civilians. Shamil Basayev was convicted for crimes under part 2 of article 73 (e) of the Criminal Code of Georgia and is being prosecuted. He was declared wanted on 19 July 1996. Currently, the case is pending owing to the ongoing search.

Much like Mr. Basayev, many other hired or volunteer mercenaries went through military training in Abkhazia. They have since employed that experience in Chechnya conflicts. In the past 10 years Georgia, and particularly President Shevardnadze, on numerous occasions has appealed to the international community with the warning that the dangerous tendencies ignited during the conflict in Abkhazia will only create a wave of organized crime and further conflicts in the region. Indeed, the Abkhaz tragedy has had a "boomerang effect".

Georgia condemns international terrorism in all its forms and stands ready to cooperate actively with the relevant authorities of different countries to expose international terrorists and bring them to justice.

Georgia expresses the hope that declaring Shamil Basayev as a dangerous terrorist will serve as a telling example for the inadmissibility of "double standards" in the fight against terrorism and will further underline the dire necessity to address unresolved conflicts, the breeding ground of terrorism.